

*Grants Provide Critically Needed Funding for Equipment and Training*

*Monticello, NY* - In an effort to help ensure that first responders have the resources they need to keep themselves and their communities safe, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) along with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) will hold a workshop on Thursday, June 9, 2011 to assist local fire departments and EMS organizations with their applications for federal grant funding. The workshop will take place from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Town of Mamakating Town Hall located at 2948 Route 209 in Wurtsboro, NY.

"Firefighters and other first responders put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities, and they deserve our full support," said Hinchey. "This workshop will assist firefighters and EMS organizations in their effort to obtain critically needed federal funding for gear, equipment and vehicles that will help keep them safe and enhance their ability to effectively respond to emergencies. With many communities facing tight budgets, I'm committed to ensuring that our local departments have the resources they need to operate successfully."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program since its inception in 2001. Nearly \$20 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency medical departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

The Congressman has sponsored a number of similar workshops across his congressional district in the past to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations. For more information on the workshop, fire and EMS departments should contact District Representative Chris White in Hinchey's Middletown office at 845-344-3211. For the most current information regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/>.